



Background Paper

Committee: UNOOSA

Topic: Space Security and Militarization

Chairs: Nitza Belén García Saltijeral & Valentina Ruiz Guerreo

Space security is a topic that during recent decades has come to public acknowledgment. Since the popularization of outer space, only the powerful countries have come into action (e.g, China, Russia, U.S.A., Japan) by sending technology and controlling the use of space and Earth's orbit. Newly, smaller countries like Norway and Israel have achieved the space industry. The introduction of new players into the space community has launched the idea of militarization into the space industry, for the sake of safety. Under the circumstances of this topic, the militarization of outer space is the deployment of weapons and military technology onto space "such that can be used for military purposes, in the Earth orbit, and deep space, including ballistic missiles and hypersonic gliders that pass through outer space during their flight." (Bernat, 2019). While the regulation of these technologies can be valid, there is no distinction between using space systems for secure communications and the distribution and deployment of weapons that can seriously be infringed upon humankind itself. Although there is a Treaty regulating the use of outer space (The Outer Space Treaty), this treaty does not regulate issues surrounding outer space militarization. Recognizing the problem, The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs committee expresses its concern towards this issue and the possible repercussions that it may have, anytime in the near future. Ensuring space security is vital for the well-being of our kind, peace and sustainable use are to be enforced, we expect all nations to come up with a resolution that can ensure our safety against this problem.

Many nations are opposing the idea of weaponizing outer space. The Assembly takes into account two space-related resolutions; firstly, caring about the peaceful uses of outer space and preventing a second space race in weapons and military themes. PAROS (Proposed Prevention of an Arms Race in Space) is also a decisive issue in the Conference on Disarmament, where many members have called to negotiate or ban space weaponization.

The United Nations encouraged the world to completely ban the weapons of space, but it lacked support from the United States in related PAROS resolutions. The U.S. has a full-grown military, civilian, and commercial role in space, which originates the attempt of getting a treaty without U.S. participation, creating the biggest obstacle for international relations on this topic by leaving behind the most influential country of the UN.

Since in Outer space everything can be used as a weapon, even though an object isn't meant to be one, the US participation in any international conventions causes difficulty in the implementation of space-based arms control policy. With enough speed in orbit, an object no bigger than a rock can even destroy a satellite and cause destruction of others' property. In other words, even if something is not designed to be a weapon, it can be used as one in space. Until policymakers effectively identify what constitutes a weapon in space, weapons cannot be regulated or prohibited, making verification and enforcement extremely hard or even impossible.

The international community needs to consider protecting the civilian benefits or to adapt to the military benefits of a few. This is an issue of the Disarmament Forum and experts analyze the aspects of militarization and weaponization. Another issue the Disarmament Forum deals with is nuclear terrorism, examining the actual threat posed by terrorists and the impact that arms control could make to anti-terrorism leadership.

Bringing mass destruction weapons into orbit is the one thing that's forbidden. The only thing that is specifically forbidden under international space law is to bring weapons of mass destruction into orbit. The challenge of the production of conventional missiles, primarily directed at the destruction of operational military satellites, is one that could not and should be avoided simply by diplomatic action. This approach has been the main focus of France. A "European space deterrent" could be founded on the outflow of a solid European international strategy, in fact of counter if including fast reaction and little devoted launchers, be the of a 'European space deterrent', and the advancement of free methods for orbital reconnaissance of ballistic and space dispatches. By this, space will be regulated and safe for the next decades which is important since it will play a crucial part in the socio-economic aspect of France and Europe. In the sense of a NATO equipped with interoperable space assets, such an asset will put Europe on an equal establishment in dialog with the US.

The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 forbids the stationing in outer space of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), prohibits military action on celestial bodies, and lays down legally binding laws regulating the peaceful exploration and use of space.

Space has been concerned about the military uses of it for some time. Most NGOs aware of the risks of space weaponization have grown out of their concerns about missile defense during the late 1990s. Though the issues of missile proliferation, missile defense, and the weaponization of space may be connected, they give rise to different kinds of political questions and responses. It is perhaps premature to speak of NGO initiatives on space weaponization. While there are no specifically designed and deployed weapons in space yet, there are satellites that could be maneuvered to act as weapons and disable or destroy the space assets of others.

Space safety and the uses that we give to this territory are vital for the safe development and expansion of our knowledge of the universe. The ongoing concern that militarization has upon outer space relations, damages this safety, and puts at risk many populations. Acknowledging the fact that militarization is a threatening idea that could result in millions of death, this committee expects the collaboration of the nations to come up with a resolution that can maintain order, peace, and safety upon outer space affairs and relations.

Works Cited

Bernat, Paweł. (2019). The Inevitability of Militarization of Outer Space. *Safety & Defense*. 5. 49-54. 10.37105/sd.43.

A General Assembly - UNOOSA.

www.unoosa.org/res/oosadoc/data/resolutions/2019/general_assembly_74th_session/ares7482_html/A_RES_74_82E.pdf.

Author links open overlay panel association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France (3AF) Strategy and International Affairs Commission—Writers’ Group12, et al. “The Militarization and Weaponization of Space: Towards a European Space Deterrent.” *Space Policy*, Elsevier, 5 May 2008, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0265964608000155.

Moltz, James Clay. *Future Security in Space: Commercial, Military, and Arms Control Trade-Offs*. Monterey Institute of International Studies, www.files.ethz.ch/isn/38933/op10.pdf.

“UNIDIR Space Security Conference 2018.” *UNIDIR*, unidir.org/files/publications/pdfs/space-security-conference-2018-space-security-the-next-chapter-en-714.pdf.